THE STRANGEST STORIES EVER TOLD!

MARVEL TALES

MAR. NO. 112

10¢

ATLAS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

THE HOUSE THAT DEATH BUILT!

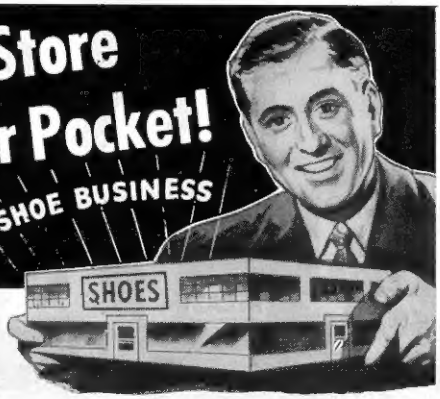
THE THIRD GHOST!

I'M WAITING FOR YOU!

ON SALE EVERY MONTH

Build a Fine Business...Full or Spare Time!

I'll Put a "Shoe Store Business" in Your Pocket!



You Don't Invest a Cent!
I Furnish Everything Free!

Want to have lots of money in your pocket — always? Then rush the coupon below and start toward your own business. In many ways it's better than a retail store of your own! I plan to give it to you absolutely **FREE**. You don't invest a penny now or ever! Be in this highly profitable business QUICK.

HERE'S WHY IT'S BETTER!

As the direct factory man handling the quick-selling line of this 47-year old, million-dollar company you have a limitless market, because everybody wears shoes. Start by selling to relatives, friends, neighbors. That will prove the fine quality leathers—superb craftsmanship—money-saving value—and unequalled comfort-fit! Then branch out on a big scale.

It's easy to fit folks in the exact style they want—no need to substitute—you draw on our huge factory stock of over 175,000 pairs plus huge daily factory production.

Sales build up from friend to friend quickly, like a snowball. Recommendations, repeat orders and new customers build you a big income in a surprisingly short time. No wonder some of our top Shoe Counselors make from $5 to $10 every hour they spend taking orders!

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

People demand nationally advertised Mason Shoes because of their exclusive comfort features, up-to-the-minute styling. Foamy-soft exclusive Velvet-Eez Air Cushion innersole makes walking a real pleasure—like "walking on air!" Ten-second demonstration lets customer actually feel air cushion, brings quick sales!

These splendid shoes bear famous Good Housekeeping Guarantee Seal.

Velvet-Eez

MASON SHOE MFG. CO.
Dept. MA-64 CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISC.

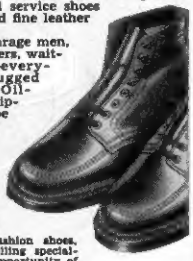
BIG, STEADY PROFITS FOR YOU — NO OVERHEAD!

That's right! You have all the advantages of a profitable shoe store business *without* the expenses of rent, light, heat, etc. You are independent and invest nothing but your time. Your generous profit is ALL YOURS! No wonder Mason men are making more money than ever before. Even if you start in spare time, you will soon want to devote full time to this steady, repeat-order big-income business!

No Experience Needed... Make Money First Hour!

You need no experience to make money right away. Some men have made up to 20 sales their first day. You feature 151 styles of smart dress shoes, casual sport shoes, and practical work and service shoes for men and women, boots and fine leather jackets, too.

Sell to service station and garage men, waiters, factory workers, barbers, waitresses, nurses, housewives—everybody! Such features as Rugged Horsehide Shoes, Neoprene Oil-Resistant Soles, Gro-Cork Slip-Resistant Soles, Steel Safety Toe shoes make Mason Shoes easy to sell.



SEND NOW!

I have a powerful Selling Outfit I'm going to send you absolutely FREE as soon as I receive your coupon. This outfit includes actual 10-second demonstrator, famous Automatic Selling Plan, and features exclusive Velvet-Eez Air-Cushion shoes, fine leather jackets—other fast-selling specialties. To take advantage of this opportunity of your life, rush me the coupon below NOW! You'll be glad you did!

SEND FOR FREE OUTFIT

Mr. Ned Mason, Sales Manager
Mason Shoe Mfg. Co., Dept. MA-64
Chippewa Falls, Wisc.

Please put a "Shoe Store Business" in my pocket by rushing **FREE** and postpaid your Powerful Selling Outfit—so I can start making Big Money my very first hour!

Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

Town..... State.....

MARVEL TALES is published monthly by MARVEL COMICS, INC. Office of Publication: 270 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Canton, Ohio. Copyright 1952 by MARVEL COMICS, INC., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. Vol. 1 No. 112, March 1953 issue. Price 10c per copy. Subscription rate $1.45 for 12 issues including postage. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U. S. A.

THE HOUSE THAT DEATH BUILT!

STEP RIGHT IN AND BEHOLD A TALE TO MARVEL AT!
by Stan Lee
THE LITTLE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE WAS PEACEFUL AND SILENT AT TWO A.M. ON THE 14TH OF APRIL!
1

AT THE CORNER OF 5TH AND ELM STREET THERE WAS AN EMPTY LOT! THIS LOT HAD BEEN VACANT FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS...

BUT AT 2:01 A.M., A DEAFENING EXPLOSION FILLED THE SKIES ABOVE PLAINVILLE, AND A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT APPEARED OVER THE VACANT LOT...AS THOUGH A FLYING SAUCER HAD LANDED!

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED AWAY NO DAMAGE WAS DONE...NOBODY HAD BEEN HARMED...THE ONLY CHANGE WAS...A HOUSE NOW STOOD ON THE LOT WHICH HAD BEEN EMPTY SIXTY SECONDS BEFORE!

THE CITIZENS OF PLAINVILLE, SHAKEN OUT OF THEIR BEDS BY THE NOISE...COULDN'T BELIEVE THE SIGHT BEFORE THEM!

THE MAYOR WAS SUMMONED, AND HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO MAKE A SPEECH...

MY FRIENDS, I SUSPECT THAT THIS IS A TRICK OF THE OTHER PARTY ON THE EVE OF THE ELECTION! BUT LET'S NOT GET EXCITED! THE FORCES OF CLEAN GOVERNMENT WILL PREVAIL!
WHERE DID THE HOUSE COME FROM, YA OLD WINDBAG?
THIS IS NO TIME FOR A CAMPAIGN SPEECH!

I TELL YOU I PASSED THIS CORNER WHILE MAKIN' MY ROUNDS TEN MINUTES AGO! THIS LOT WAS AS EMPTY AS A PAUPER'S PURSE!
BUT NOBODY CAN BUILD A HOUSE IN TEN MINUTES!
NOT EVEN A CARDBOARD ONE... AND THIS ONE IS REAL BRICKS AND WOOD!
POLICE

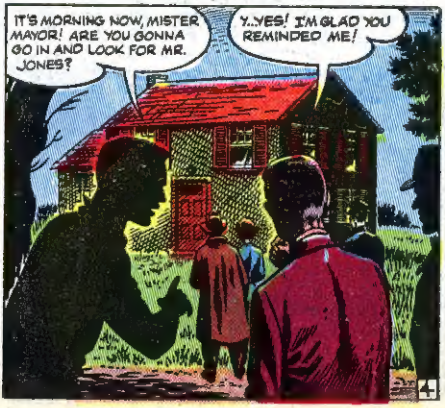
FINALLY DOCTOR PHINEAS TWIGG, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PLAINVILLE COLLEGE, BROUGHT FORTH AN EXPLANATION...

IT'S VERY SIMPLE! A FREAK TORNADO MUST HAVE LIFTED THIS HOUSE FROM SOME OTHER TOWN AND CARRIED IT HERE!
SURE! THAT MUST BE IT!
IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY TWIGG IS A COLLEGE PRESIDENT!

WELL, THE ONLY THING TO DO NOW IS TO GO INSIDE AND LOOK FOR A CLUE AS TO WHERE IT CAME FROM!
MAYBE THERE'S SOMEONE STILL INSIDE!
AS MAYOR, YOU SHOULD HAVE THE HONOR OF ENTERING IT FIRST!
OH, NO...I WOULDN'T THINK OF DEPRIVING YOU OF THAT PRIVILEGE!
NO NEED TO MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT! I'LL GO IN!
TOO BAD! JONES BEAT YOU TO IT!
YEAH! JONES GOT THERE AHEAD OF YOU, TOO!
WHY AREN'T YOU WRITING THIS STORY UP FOR THE PRESS SERVICES, SCOOP?
DON'T BE SILLY! THEY'D LAUGH AT ME! WHO'D BELIEVE IT?
AIYEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
WH...WHAT WAS THAT?
IT SOUNDED LIKE JONES!
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?
NEVER MIND THE GUESSING GAME! GO IN AND FIND OUT!

AND SO THE SILENT GROUP HUDDLED TOGETHER AROUND THE AMAZING HOUSE ALL THRU THE NIGHT! NONE DARED TO TAKE HIS EYES OFF THE STRANGE BUILDING... AND NONE DARED TO GO ANY CLOSER!

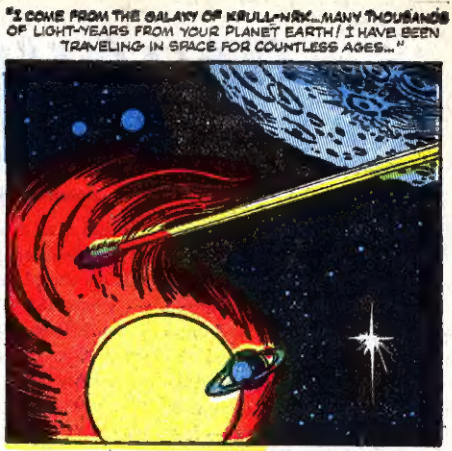
FINALLY THE DAWN BROKE... AND STILL THIS HOUSE STOOD... SILENT, IMMOBILE, FOREBODING!



I'LL PROVE THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ELECTIN' A NEW MAYOR SOONER THAN WE THOUGHT!
IT'S EMPTY! THERE'S NO FURNITURE! NOTHING!
JONES, WHERE ARE YOU!
CHIEF, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
I'VE LOOKED OVER THE ENTIRE HOUSE! JONES AND THE CHIEF HAVE VANISHED! BUT HOW? WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE? THERE'S NO CELLAR...NO PLACE TO HIDE!
MAYOR WORMSLY! ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
NOTHING! AB-SO-LUTELY NOTHING! THE HOUSE IS DESERTED!
BUT JONES AND THE CHIEF MUST BE HERE! WE WERE OUTSIDE ALL NIGHT! THEY DIDN'T COME PAST US!
MAYOR WORMSLY AND THE PEOPLE OF PLAINVILLE REALIZED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS TOO GREAT FOR THEM TO HANDLE ALONE... SO THEY WIRED WASHINGTON FOR HELP! AND THEN THE NEWSPAPERS HEARD OF IT! WITHIN 24 HOURS...
DAILY GLOBE
HOUSE APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE! TWO MEN VANISH!
BULLETIN
F.B.I. TAKES OVER HAUNTED HOUSE MYSTERY!
-NEWS-
$10,000 REWARD OFFERED FOR SOLUTION OF HAUNTED HOUSE MYSTERY!
DAI
5

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS J.R KILTINHORN BRINGING YOU AN ON-THE-SPOT REPORT OF PLAINVILLE'S NOW FAMOUS MYSTERY HOUSE! F.B.I. MEN ARE NOW INVESTIGATING EVERY INCH OF IT FOR CLUES TO WHERE IT CAME FROM AND WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO OF PLAINVILLE'S LEADING CITIZENS...
AND NOW, JOHN BLACK, THE FAMOUS ARCHITECT WILL SAY A FEW WORDS..
I'VE JUST EXAMINED EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THAT HOUSE! THERE IS NO PLACE WHERE THE TWO MISSING MEN COULD BE HIDING! THEY ARE POSITIVELY NOT IN THE HOUSE!
THE CROWDS SURROUNDED THE HOUSE UNTIL NIGHTFALL! AND THEN, AS THE SUN FADED FROM SIGHT!
LOOK! INSIDE THE HOUSE! THE LIGHTS WENT ON!
THEN EVERYONE IS WRONG! SOMEBODY...OR SOMETHING IS INSIDE THE HOUSE!
LET ME GO IN AND SEE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY-ONE TO BE THERE!
BE CAREFUL! REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TWO!
WELCOME, EARTHLING! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
WHO SAID THAT? WHERE ARE YOU?
HERE I AM! YOU'RE LOOKING RIGHT AT ME!
I..I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING! ARE YOU INVISIBLE?
6

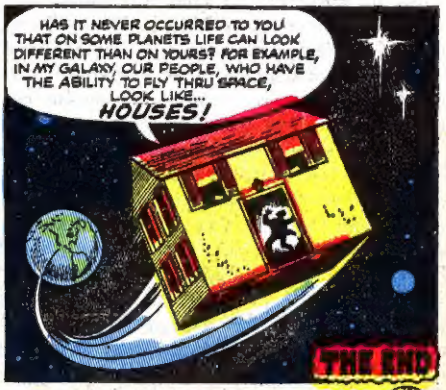
NO, YOU POOR FOOL... I'M NOT INVISIBLE! BUT YOU EARTHLINGS AREN'T SMART ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE ME!
WHAT ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?


"I COME FROM THE GALAXY OF KRULL-NRK... MANY THOUSANDS OF LIGHT-YEARS FROM YOUR PLANET EARTH! I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING IN SPACE FOR COUNTLESS AGES..."

TWO DELICIOUS HUMAN BEINGS! IT ONLY TOOK ME A FEW SECONDS TO EAT THEM! YOU SHOULD BE FLATTERED... YOUR BREED IS VERY EASY TO DIGEST!
WHERE ARE YOU? IF YOU'RE BIG ENOUGH TO EAT PEOPLE, WHY CAN'T I SEE YOU?

A SECOND LATER THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH AND A ROAR LIKE THUNDER...AND THE VACANT LOT WAS EMPTY AGAIN!

WHILE A FANTASTIC CREATURE FROM THE GALAXY OF KRULL-NRK ROCKETED THRU THE SKY TOWARDS IT'S NEXT DESTINATION... AFTER HAVING STOPPED FOR DINNER...


HAS IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT ON SOME PLANETS LIFE CAN LOOK DIFFERENT THAN ON YOURS? FOR EXAMPLE, IN MY GALAXY, OUR PEOPLE, WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO FLY THRU SPACE, LOOK LIKE... HOUSES!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

THE CONQUERORS!!

KARA finished his invention and then stood back to admire it. His hand trembled as he put down his wrench and the spare transformer. He had done it at last. He had created the machine that men had been seeking the answer to, for thousands of years, and he — Kara — had successfully built it!

It was a time-machine!

And there was a purpose for it.

Kara knew that he hadn't spent the last twenty years of his life developing a machine like this, so that he might turn it over to the Earth government. He had a plan of conquest which he knew — if successful — would allow him to conquer the entire solar system. He, Kara, would be emperor!

The first step in his plan consisted of going back in time to different periods of the Earth's history, and picking out the best Generals and Soldiers that existed on Earth for all time. They would form the core of an army of soldiers recruited the same way. It would be the greatest fighting force ever assembled in one place . . . at one time.

The first step was ancient Greece and Troy for Hector and Achilles. Then down through the ages with Hannibal, Caesar, Alexander the Great, Atilla the Hun, Patton, Sversky, Allelo and so on.

He stepped into his time machine, and pulled the lever.

In the course of six months his job was completed, and he had assembled with his generals on the plains of New York — where the Atom bomb had, years before, laid waste to a great city. The ancient fighting men were still a bit confused. Not one among them had any idea what had taken place. All they knew was that a raving maniac had approached them in the heat of battle and swooped them off in a metal chariot that thundered down through time . . . ignoring the seasons, and defying gravity. Only men from the later periods of time had any conception of what a time-machine might be. They had all read science-fiction.

"Who is this man," asked Achilles.

"Yon stranger, called Hannibal," said Hector, "tells me he calls himself Kara, and has brought us thru time — thousands of years — for the purpose of helping him conquer the world."

"What?" shrieked a bald headed soldier with a wreath on his head, "Who dares to say that anyone but I, Caesar, will ever conquer the world?"

"I do," came a voice from behind him.

"And," said Caesar, "who pray tell are you?"

"I am called by some 'Alexander the Great.' "

Caesar stood speechless for a moment. He had heard of Alexander of Macedon, but Achilles and Hector (who died long before Alexander was born) smiled patronizingly.

"But," sputtered Caesar, "you —you're dead."

Alexander yawned, and polished his nails on his toga. "Yes," he said, "I understand we've all been dead for thousands of years."

This kind of discussion was going on all over the field. Napoleon insulted Cromwell, who would have attacked him, there and then, if General Patton hadn't intervened, warning that America would never stand by and allow an Englishman to be attacked. Later Atilla the Hun asked him just what he meant by a "mutual assistance pact."

Finally, Kara came out on the huge balcony, over which was draped an ensign with a huge "K" emblazoned in its center. He held up his hands for silence and got it.

"Gentlemen," he said, speaking thru the public address system he'd had rigged up, "I have brought all of you into this world of the 30th century for the honor of assisting me in conquering the Solar System."

When the murmur died down, he explained to many of them, just what the Solar System was. There were cries of disbelief and mutterings of "blasphemy." But finally he brought them up to date on what had happened in the world.

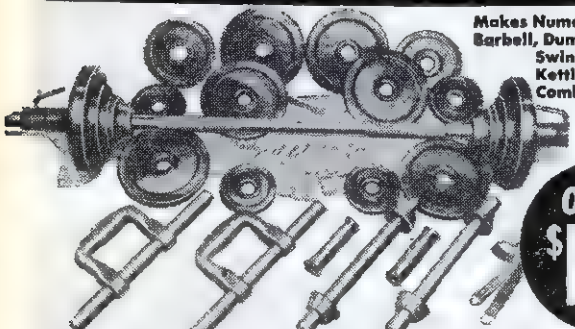
Each man called him a liar on the grounds that *he* was going to be the one to conquer the world in *his* time, and that the Earth would be ruled forever—

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY

THE PROVED WAY TO BUILD MUSCLES OF STEEL!

Barbell training—that's the answer! No other type of exercise can build your muscles bigger or faster than the correct use of barbells. Thousands and thousands of young men all over the country are finding that barbell exercise gives them magnificent physiques in a few short weeks. You, too, can be powerful, can build muscles of steel. Try the PROVED way to gain massive strength and a dynamic body . . . order your "BODY-BILD" Barbells now—the equipment used by many champions!

"BODY-BILD" SPECIAL 41-PC. BARBELL SET



Makes Numerous Barbell, Dumbell, Swingbell, Kettlebell, etc. Combinations

GIVEN! Picture Book of Instructions

Guides you every step of the way. Pictures show you—instructions tell you—what to do. Want muscles and a gain in weight? Want to reduce, yet build bulging muscles? Just follow the book's instructions. This Picture Book of progressive exercises is given with every order.

ONLY $16.95

"BODY-BILD" Barbells and Dumbells are the best made equipment money can buy, at prices that are lower than inferior brands. Wait 'til you see the "BODY-BILD" set you order. You will be overjoyed at the precision finish, the handsome gleaming appearance of each piece. "BODY-BILD" equipment is made to last a lifetime! Order now while our prices are low and sets are available.

SPECIAL OFFER
41-Pc. BARBELL SET

(shown above) Consists of

1 – 4 ft. steel bar	2 – 14" steel bars
6 – Small collars	2 – 9" steel bars
2 – Long collars	2 – Kettlebells
2 – 5 lb. plates	2 – 7" steel bars
8 – 2½ lb. plates	2 – 5" steel sleeves
10 – 1¼ lb. plates	1 – Handstrap
1 – Wristroller	

"Body-Bild" Special Barbell Set Makes Many Combinations:

BARBELL SET
For insane muscular bulk. You get BODY BILD'S highest quality construction.
DUMBELL SET
To add inches of muscle to your body. "BODY BILD" means balanced equipment.
SWING BELL OUTFIT
For upper torso development. Gain vigor and supermanly form.
LIFTING SET
By easy stages you reach the pointed heavy lifting.
HEADSTRAP OUTFIT
Strengthens the most sorely neck.
KETTLEBELL SET
For massive shoulders and chest.

Other "Body-Bild" Barbell Sets As Low As $12.95

2.	30 lb. Dumbell Set	$ 8.95
3.	50 lb. Barbell Set	12.95
4.	100 lb. Barbell Set	26.95
5.	110 lb. Barbell Set	22.95
6.	160 lb. Barbell Set	31.95
7.	210 lb. Barbell Set	41.95
8.	360 lb. Barbell Set	89.95

All Prices F.O.B Foundry Mansfield, Pa.

BODY-BILD BARBELL CO., Dept. 1004
26 East 46th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

MAIL COUPON TODAY—AND BE ON YOUR WAY TO A DYNAMIC, POWERFUL, MUSCULAR BODY!

BODY-BILD BARBELL CO., Dept. 1004
26 East 46th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

ORDER THIS WAY:

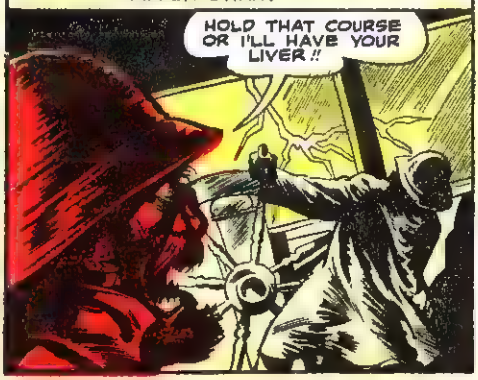
Gentlemen: I enclose$..... .
Rush me Body-Bild Set No..... ..
Include my Picture Book of Instructions. (At least ½ down payment required with C.O.D. orders. Freight charges to be paid by customer.)

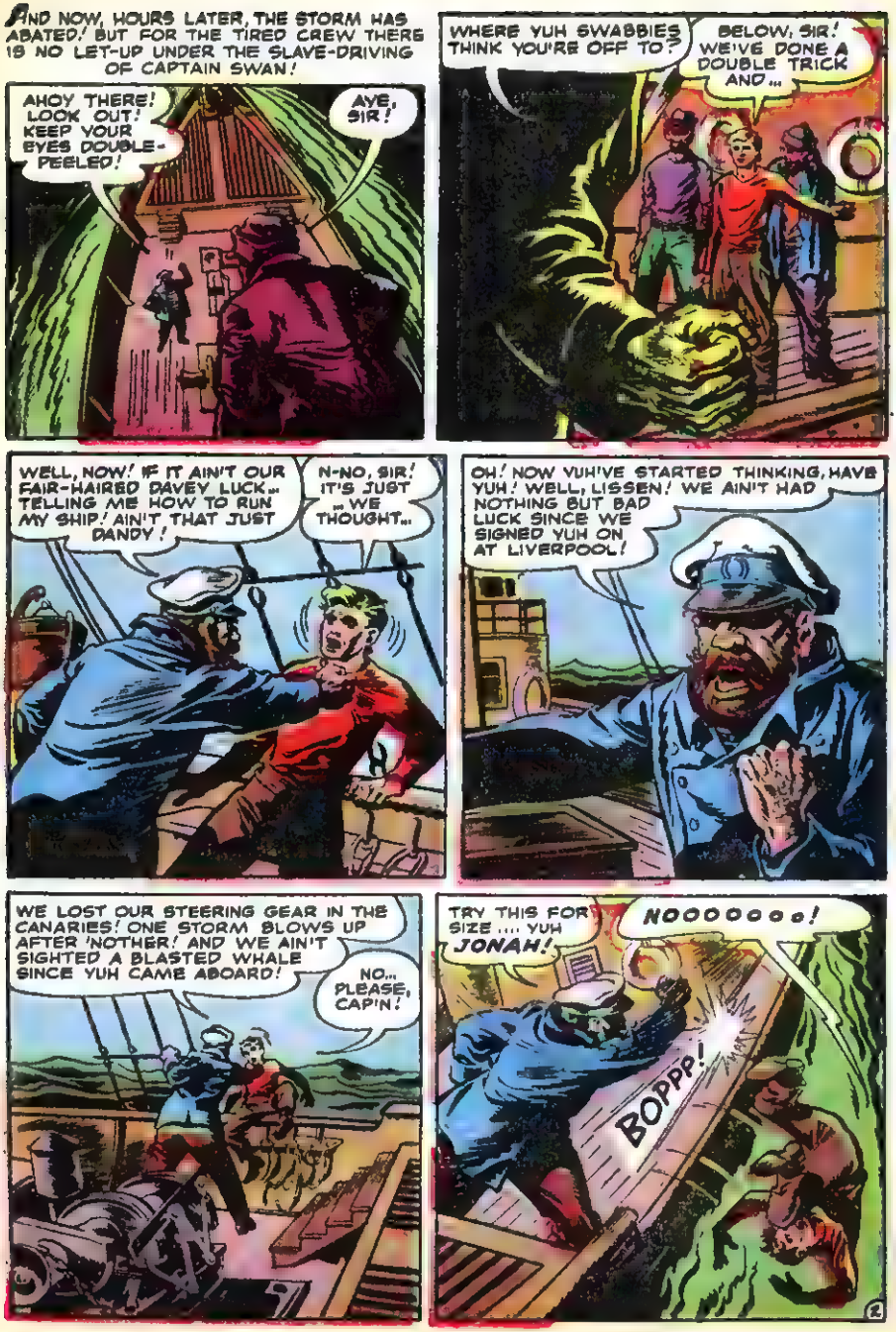
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ Zone____ STATE _____
AGE _____ WEIGHT _____ HEIGHT _____

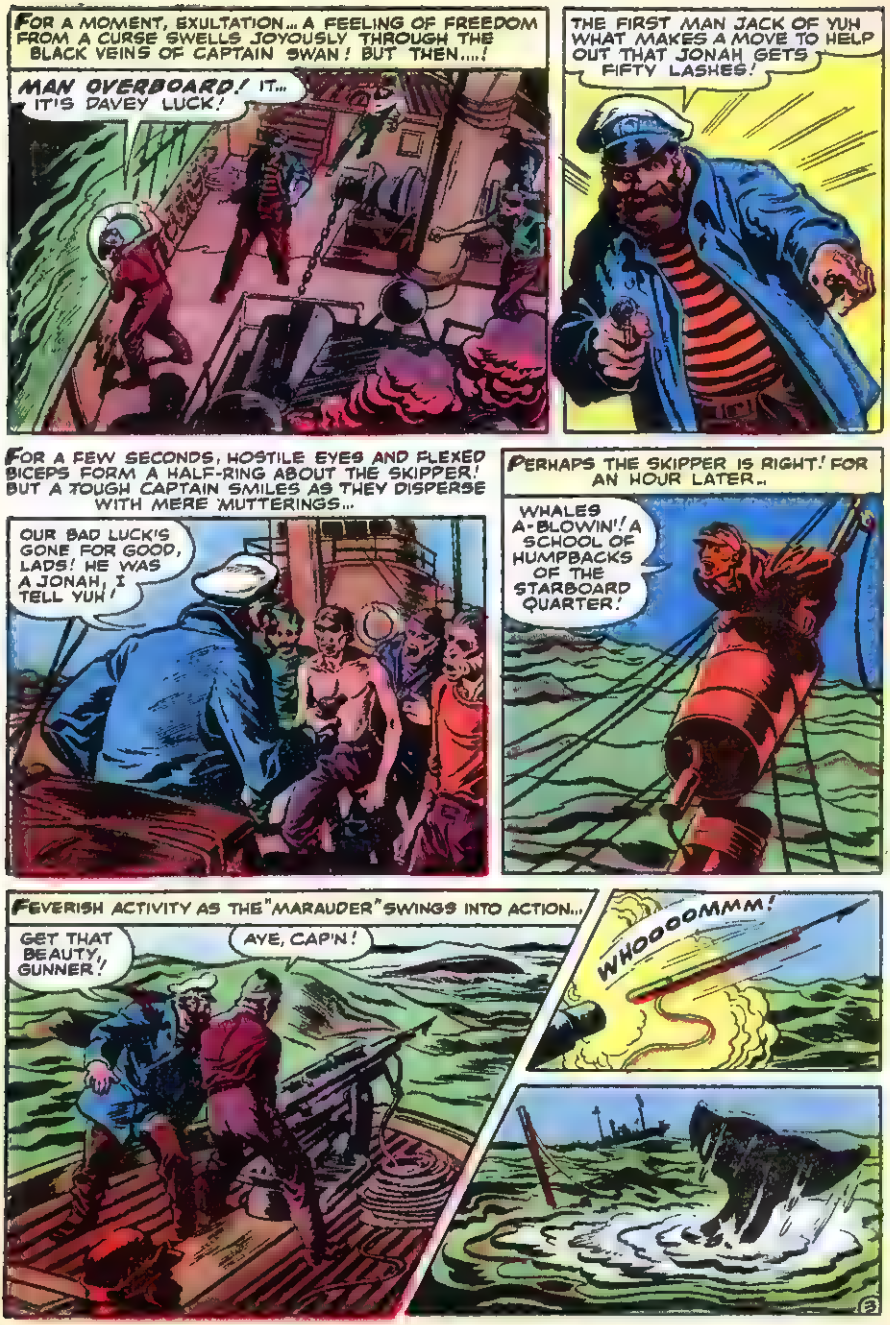
MAYBE IT'S MORE THAN IDLE TALK... SEAFARING SUPERSTITION! MAYBE THERE IS SUCH A PERSON...AS

"JONAH!!"

A WHALING VESSEL "MARAUDER" LIES OFF THE COAST OF AFRICA... SAVAGELY RIDING OUT A TROPICAL STORM! BUT EVEN THE FOULEST WEATHER SEEMS CALM WHEN MATCHED WITH THE BLACK-SOULED RAGINGS OF SKIPPER SWAN!




AND NOW, HOURS LATER, THE STORM HAS ABATED! BUT FOR THE TIRED CREW THERE IS NO LET-UP UNDER THE SLAVE-DRIVING OF CAPTAIN SWAN!
AHOY THERE! LOOK OUT! KEEP YOUR EYES DOUBLE-PEELED!
AYE, SIR!
WHERE YUH SWABBIES THINK YOU'RE OFF TO?
BELOW, SIR! WE'VE DONE A DOUBLE TRICK AND...
WELL, NOW! IF IT AIN'T OUR FAIR-HAIRED DAVEY LUCK... TELLING ME HOW TO RUN MY SHIP! AIN'T THAT JUST DANDY!
N-NO, SIR! IT'S JUST ... WE THOUGHT...
OH! NOW YUH'VE STARTED THINKING, HAVE YUH! WELL, LISSEN! WE AIN'T HAD NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK SINCE WE SIGNED YUH ON AT LIVERPOOL!
WE LOST OUR STEERING GEAR IN THE CANARIES! ONE STORM BLOWS UP AFTER 'NOTHER! AND WE AIN'T SIGHTED A BLASTED WHALE SINCE YUH CAME ABOARD!
NO... PLEASE, CAP'N!
TRY THIS FOR SIZE .... YUH JONAH!
NOOOOOOO!
BOPPP!


FOR A MOMENT, EXULTATION... A FEELING OF FREEDOM FROM A CURSE SWELLS JOYOUSLY THROUGH THE BLACK VEINS OF CAPTAIN SWAN! BUT THEN....!
MAN OVERBOARD! IT... IT'S DAVEY LUCK!
THE FIRST MAN JACK OF YUH WHAT MAKES A MOVE TO HELP OUT THAT JONAH GETS FIFTY LASHES!
FOR A FEW SECONDS, HOSTILE EYES AND FLEXED BICEPS FORM A HALF-RING ABOUT THE SKIPPER! BUT A TOUGH CAPTAIN SMILES AS THEY DISPERSE WITH MERE MUTTERINGS...
OUR BAD LUCK'S GONE FOR GOOD, LADS! HE WAS A JONAH, I TELL YUH!
PERHAPS THE SKIPPER IS RIGHT! FOR AN HOUR LATER..
WHALES A-BLOWIN'! A SCHOOL OF HUMPBACKS OF THE STARBOARD QUARTER!
FEVERISH ACTIVITY AS THE "MARAUDER" SWINGS INTO ACTION...
GET THAT BEAUTY, GUNNER!
AYE, CAP'N!
WHOOOOMMM!
3

EXCITEMENT RUNS THROUGH ALL HANDS LIKE A GRASS FIRE! TENSE, HARD-FOUGHT HOURS LATER, THE HUGE MAMMAL IS LASHED ALONGSIDE... AND MEN ARE FLENSING AND STRIPPING WITH BLUBBER HOOKS AND FORKS!

AND ABOARD "THE MARAUDER" SKIPPER SWAN CAN BARELY CONTAIN HIMSELF!

I TELL YUH, MR. ANDERSON... THAT'S THE GRAND-DADDY OF THEM ALL! BET THERE'S A HUNDRED-FIFTY BARRELS OF OIL ALONE!

I..I CAN'T HELP THINKING OF THAT LAD...

ARE YUH MAD, MAN! THAT NO-GOOD, GREEN-HANDED...! HEY! WHAT'RE THEY UP TO?

WHAT ARE YUH BLASTED SNEAKS DOING! TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING FROM YOUR SKIPPER?!

W-WE WAS JUST CURIOUS, SIR! SOMETHING... SOMETHING "QUEERLIKE" WE FOUND IN THE FISH'S BELLY!

THE MEN WASTE NO TIME IN OBEYING THE ORDER! AND SOON... HIS HEART POUNDING IN FURIOUS ANTICIPATION... THE SKIPPER IS ALONE IN HIS STEEL CABIN!

YUH CAN JUST LUG THAT "QUEERLIKE" STUFF TO MY CABIN! ON THE DOUBLE!

THE FOOLS! THAT FOUL-SMELLING STUFF IS AMBERGRIS! A HUNK THAT SIZE IS WORTH A FORTUNE!

IT STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN! MUST BE THE MC COY! I'LL PUT A SMEAR UNDER THE MICROSCOPE!

BUT FIRST I'LL LOCK THE DOOR! I WANT NONE OF THEM BILGE RATS BUSTIN' IN HERE!

CLICK!

SEA MEN, LIKE CAPTAIN SWAN, HAVE SURPRISING TALENTS AND KNOWLEDGE! WHO WOULD GUESS HIS UNCOUTH NATURE HID A SECRET GRASP OF SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW!

A STRANGE, ALMOST HIDEOUS FEELING OF PREMONITION SEEMS TO TINGLE HIS FLESH AS HE READS...
THIS... THIS DESCRIPTION TALLIES WITH... WITH WHAT I'VE GOT IN THE CABIN! ... SAYS IT... IT'S CAPABLE OF F-FEEDING AND GROWING ON... ON FLESH!

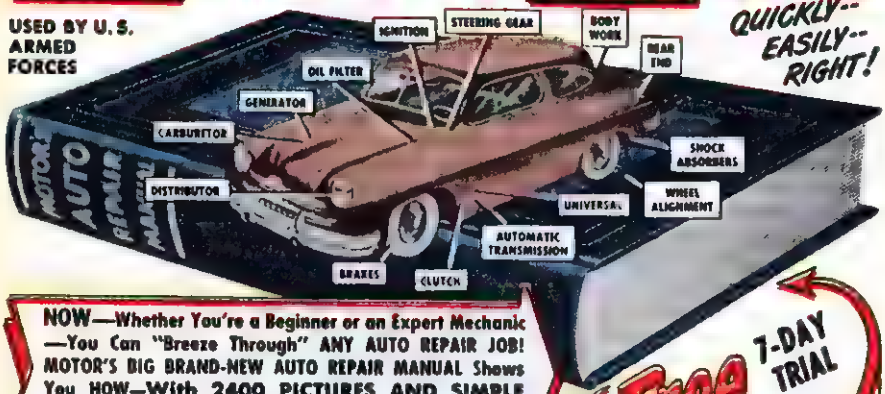
BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO REACH THE DOOR... FOR THE ROOM IS FILLING, SWELLING FROM BULKHEAD TO BULKHEAD... SQUEEZING THE SKIPPER AGAINST THE WALL...
THAT... THAT THING IS FEEDING ON SOMETHING... AN'... AN' IT'S MAKIN' IT GROW... ITS... ITS...

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

HOW TO FIX ANY PART OF ANY CAR

USED BY U. S. ARMED FORCES

QUICKLY-- EASILY-- RIGHT!



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more by *his* descendants. There were angry mutterings among the crowd, as each soldier argued with the next about which one of them would actually have succeeded in conquering the world in his time.

Kara raised his hands for silence again, and angrily denounced this insubordination among his generals. He told them that they had just about six months in which to aid him in his conquest and then they would naturally drift back to their own times. They were silent.

But they brooded.

That evening several among them called a secret gathering to discuss just what was to be done. They argued for hours over the pro's and con's of aiding this man. They decided instead to kill him. Caesar was chosen as the one to call him out of his bed on the pretext of an important message; then the others, in the hallway, would pounce upon him and stab him to death.

Caesar led the way to the house of Kara. The incident went as planned, and Achilles, Hannibal and Napoleon were the first to stab him. Lafayette was last.

But something happened.

When Lafayette pulled his dagger out of Kara's belly, he noticed something strange about the expression on the dead man's face. He touched it and came away with a huge rubberoid mask.

"Mon dieu," he shouted. "Look at this! This man is not a human being!"

The men pressed in closely to get a better look at the man with the green face and three eyes. It struck terror into their hearts, for never had anyone of them seen anything so strange. It was Patton who spoke up.

"This man is not of earth!" he said. "He must be from another planet!"

Two of Kara's aides were captured and found to have the same kind of masks on their faces. They were tortured until they confessed. They were all Martians.

Patton explained, from his knowledge of Science-fiction, what a Martian was, and he told them that the planet earth was indeed in great danger of being conquered by an alien planet. After a moment of silence,

Atilla the Hun spoke up.

"I suggest that we all offer our services to the present government of Earth, for the purpose of wiping out a threat to this earth. After all this is an attack on the home of our descendants."

The agreement was unanimous, and the group sent a delegation down to the capitol of New California to inform the leaders of the danger involved. The group also put forth the offer of help of some of the greatest military men and strategists the Earth had ever known. It was accepted. And all of them were taken by Rocket-transports to the capitol building of the superoctogen (where military matters were handled). They created quite a furor in the capitol.

Not knowing much about the problems of space-logistics or superoctogon (where military maneuvering of spaceships in "free fall", or the penetration of force fields, the great soldiers of the past were of little use, even in an advisory capacity. Mostly they watched. And tried to learn.

They went along on space-battles and watched the super-hydrogen bombs being dropped in the canals of Mars. They saw super battles between giant space-ships, and watched the spraying of Martian cities with plague-bacteria and other horrible diseases.

Within five months Mars was wiped out.

The Earth Government insisted that a major part of the credit went to these soldiers of the past, who had discovered the threat in the first place. A special medal was voted by congress and awarded to all of them. They hung around for another month, taking in the future sights, and then when the time came they all said goodbye to each other.... and just began to fade... fade... away.

Each of these great soldiers returned to his own era at the exact instant in which he was first transported into the future. No one else in his own period knew that he was gone. But somehow, having seen the enormity of the universe, and realizing the impossibility for anyone to conquer that expanse, each of them lost the appetite for war and conquest.

Which is the reason — of course — that none of them ever conquered the Earth....

THE END 9498

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BURT MULLER THOUGHT HE HAD A HOT IDEA WHEN HE STARTED PLAYING WITH FIRE, BUT MULLER WENT STONE COLD WHEN A SMOKY VOICE KEPT REPEATING...

I'M WAITING FOR YOU!

I DON'T LIKE TAKING THIS WAY TO DISSOLVE OUR PARTNERSHIP, JEFF... BUT YOU WERE GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!
OW-W! BURT... WHAT...
A TALE TO MARVEL AT!

I'VE NEVER KILLED A MAN BEFORE, BUT I'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT JEFF HARPER, MY BUSINESS PARTNER, WOULD HAVE TO DIE...
YOU'D HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE MONEY I TOOK FROM OUR COMPANY... MONEY I CAN'T REPLACE! IT WOULD HAVE MEANT PRISON FOR ME, JEFF!
Y-YOU'RE NOT ONLY A THIEF, BURT MULLER... NOW YOU'RE ALSO... A... MURDERER! ARG-H-H!

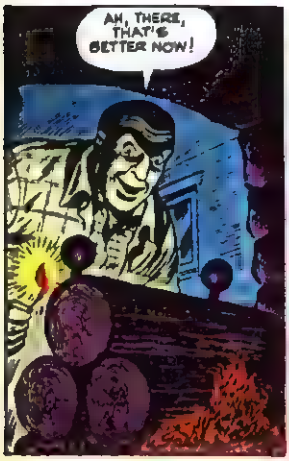
FROM THE MOMENT JEFF ACCEPTED MY INVITATION TO GO HUNTING, I'VE PLANNED THIS THING... EVEN DOWN TO SOAKING THE DRY AUTUMN LEAVES WITH LIGHTER FLUID...
THERE'LL BE NO EVIDENCE LEFT BUT THE BONES, AND I'LL SCATTER THOSE ABOUT THE WOODS!

THEN, AS THE FIRST GREAT BLAZE SETTLES DOWN TO A STEADY BURNING, A DENSE SMOKE RISES FROM THE PYRE AND IN IT SOMETHING IS FORMING.. SOMETHING THAT MAKES MY SPINE TINGLE WITH FRIGHT...
JEFF...IS... IS THAT YOU.. GETTING UP?

AS IT HANGS THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BLACK, ACRID SMOKE, I'M TOO TERRIFIED TO MOVE! NOW IT SPEAKS WITH A HOLLOW VOICE THAT ECHOES THRU THE WOOD...
I'M WAITING FOR YOU

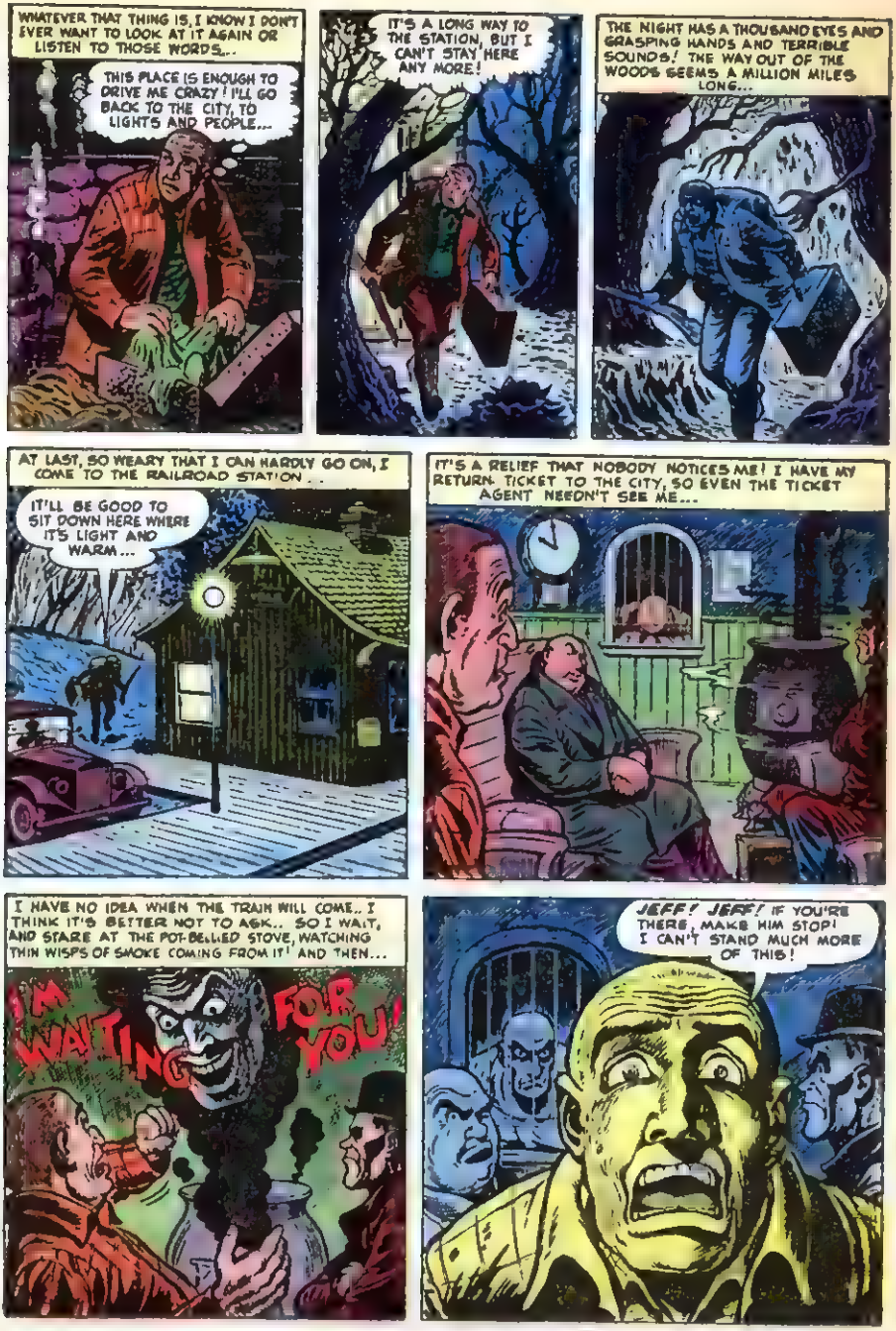
THIS IS NOT MERELY A REACTION OF MY CONSCIENCE, IT IS SOMETHING I HEAR AND SEE, AND IT IS ONLY WITH THE GREATEST EFFORT THAT I'M ABLE TO TURN AND RUN...

MY LODGE SEEMS MILES AWAY... BUT I FINALLY REACH IT! IT WAS A CHEERFUL PLACE THIS MORNING WHEN JEFF HARPER AND I LEFT IT... NOW IT'S COLD, DRAB, DREARY!

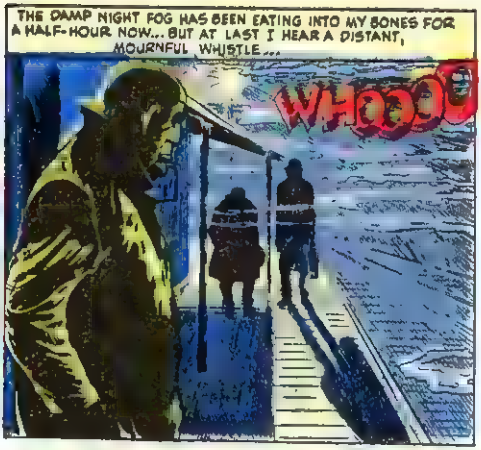

AH, THERE, THAT'S BETTER NOW!

SUDDENLY I FEEL ITS PRESENCE AGAIN, EVEN BEFORE I HEAR ITS HOLLOW VOICE ..
NO! GO AWAY!
I'M WAITING FOR YOU!

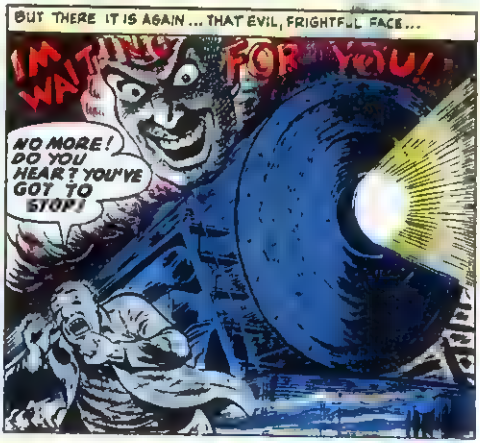
AWAY, I SAID! LET ME ALONE!
HISSSS


WHATEVER THAT THING IS, I KNOW I DON'T EVER WANT TO LOOK AT IT AGAIN OR LISTEN TO THOSE WORDS...
THIS PLACE IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE ME CRAZY! I'LL GO BACK TO THE CITY, TO LIGHTS AND PEOPLE...
IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE STATION, BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY MORE!
THE NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES AND GRASPING HANDS AND TERRIBLE SOUNDS! THE WAY OUT OF THE WOODS SEEMS A MILLION MILES LONG...
AT LAST, SO WEARY THAT I CAN HARDLY GO ON, I COME TO THE RAILROAD STATION . .
IT'LL BE GOOD TO SIT DOWN HERE WHERE IT'S LIGHT AND WARM...
IT'S A RELIEF THAT NOBODY NOTICES ME! I HAVE MY RETURN TICKET TO THE CITY, SO EVEN THE TICKET AGENT NEEDN'T SEE ME...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN THE TRAIN WILL COME.. I THINK IT'S BETTER NOT TO ASK.. SO I WAIT, AND STARE AT THE POT-BELLIED STOVE, WATCHING THIN WISPS OF SMOKE COMING FROM IT! AND THEN...
I'M WAITING FOR YOU!
JEFF! JEFF! IF YOU'RE THERE, MAKE HIM STOP! I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF THIS!

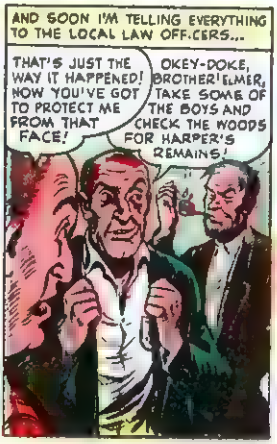
I'LL NEVER COME BACK TO THIS PLACE... NEVER!


THE DAMP NIGHT FOG HAS BEEN EATING INTO MY BONES FOR A HALF-HOUR NOW... BUT AT LAST I HEAR A DISTANT, MOURNFUL WHISTLE...
WHOOOO

COME ON, HURRY! A FEW MORE HOURS AND I'LL BE HOME.. I'LL FORGET JEFF HARPER!


BUT THERE IT IS AGAIN ... THAT EVIL, FRIGHTFUL FACE...
I'M WAITING FOR YOU!
NO MORE! DO YOU HEAR? YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!

I CAN'T GO THRU THIS ANY LONGER... I RUSH FROM THE STATION IN SEARCH OF HELP...
THE POLICE... WAKE UP, YOU FOOL! TAKE ME TO THE POLICE!
HMM? POLICE? SURE, MISTER, GET IN!


AND SOON I'M TELLING EVERYTHING TO THE LOCAL LAW OFF-CERS...
THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT HAPPENED! NOW YOU'VE GOT TO PROTECT ME FROM THAT FACE!
OKEY-DOKE, BROTHER! ELMER, TAKE SOME OF THE BOYS AND CHECK THE WOODS FOR HARPER'S REMAINS!

I'M WAITING FOR YOU
THERE IT IS AGAIN! YOU HEARD THAT... YOU SAID YOU'D PROTECT ME!

I'M GRATEFUL TO THE CONSTABLE WHEN HE LOCKS ME UP AND PROMISES THERE'LL BE NO SMOKE WHILE HE'S AROUND... SO I SLEEP SOUNDLY TILL HE AWAKENS ME THIS MORNING...

IT WAS LIKE YOU SAID, MULLER...MY DEPUTY FOUND HARPER'S REMAINS! WE'RE INDICTIN' YOU FOR MURDER!

THE TRIAL IS OVER NOW...AND IT'S WITH A FEELING OF DEEP RELIEF THAT I LISTEN TO THE SENTENCE...

THEREFORE, BURT MULLER, YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO THE STATE PRISON WHERE YOU WILL BE PUT TO DEATH IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR!

MULLER YOU'RE THE FIRST MAN I EVER HEARD THANK A JUDGE FOR SENDIN' HIM TO THE HOT SEAT!

I WANT TO DIE, CONSTABLE!

YES, I WANT TO DIE, NEVER TO SEE SMOKE AGAIN...TO FIND OBLIVION...TO BANISH THAT FACE AND VOICE FOREVER! MY TIME ARRIVES...I'M HAPPY AS THE SHOCK COMES SENDING ME 'NTO DARKNESS...

DARKNESS DOESN'T STAY...I SEE A GLOWING LIGHT BELOW AS I FALL THRU SPACE...

FIRES ALL AROUND ME...TO WARM MY COLD LIFELESS BODY... I'M SATISFIED... I'VE RID MYSELF OF THE FACE AND VOICE! WHAT DOES IT MATTER, IF I AM IN HADES!

SUDDENLY I KNOW I'M DOOMED FOREVER, FOR WHERE THERE'S FIRE THERE'S SMOKE, AND WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S...

I'M WAITING FOR YOU!

THE END

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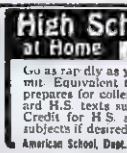

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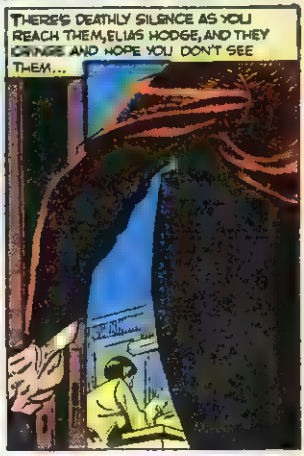
THE FIRST TWO MAY BE JUST SOMETHING YOU ATE...BUT BEWARE OF WHAT LIES AHEAD WHEN YOU ARE HAUNTED BY...

THE THIRD GHOST



YES, THEY FEAR YOU, ELIAS HODGE, THESE PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON YOU FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD...AND YOU KNOW THEY LOATHE YOU, BUT YOU DON'T CARE...
ELIAS HODGE
PRESIDENT
A TALE TO MARVEL AT!
e 625

YOU KNOW TOO, THAT AS SOON AS YOUR BACK IS TURNED YOUR EMPLOYEES WILL CLUSTER ABOUT THE DESK OF YOUR BOOKKEEPER, NICHOLAS WILKINS...
I WASN'T HERE LAST CHRISTMAS, WILKINS! DOES THE OLD MAN GET ANY OF THE YULETIDE SPIRIT?
HOW ABOUT MAYBE A LITTLE SOMETHIN' EXTRA IN OUR PAY ENVELOPES?
CHRISTMAS BONUS! HA! WE'LL BE LUCKY IF THE OLD TYRANT DOESN'T MAKE US WORK TOMORROW!
...WILKINS! COME TO MY OFFICE AT ONCE!
UH OH! I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THE BOSS'S VOICE...THAT MEANS TROUBLE FOR POOR WILKINS!
YOU CHORTLE INWARDLY, HODGE, AS YOU PICTURE WILKINS' HELPLESSNESS AND TREMBLING AS HE APPROACHES YOUR DOOR...HIS TIMIDITY AS HE OPENS IT AND PEERS IN, INCREASES YOUR SENSE OF POWER...
COME IN AND CLOSE THAT DOOR!
I'M A BUSY MAN, WILKINS! I'LL BE BRIEF AND TO THE POINT! EVERY DESK IN EVERY OFFICE IN THIS BUILDING IS EQUIPPED WITH A HIDDEN MIKE! I HEAR EVERYTHING EVERYONE SAYS... SO, WILKINS, YOU ARE FIRED!
Y-YOU HEARD WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOU! OH, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT, SIR ...YOU'RE NOT A TYRANT AT ALL... PLEASE, MR. HODGE... I'VE BEEN HERE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS...
WILKINS' PLEAS GET NO FARTHER THAN YOUR EARS...YOU HAVE NO SOUL, NO CONSCIENCE, ELIAS HODGE...THIS IS NOT EVEN A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WITH YOU...
YOU DESPISE ME, BUT THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME! YOU'RE A BAD INFLUENCE TO THE OTHERS IN THERE...IT EFFECTS THEIR WORK, COSTS ME MONEY! THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT ...THE MONEY! NOW GET OUT!
PLEASE, MR. HODGE... MY WIFE... 4 CHILDREN ...WHAT WILL BECOME OF THEM! MY LITTLE TOMMY... HE'S BEEN SO SICK!
YOU FEEL NO TWINGE OF PITY FOR POOR NICHOLAS WILKINS, AND TONIGHT, AS YOU ENJOY THE SPECTACLE OF MEN SHATTERING EACH OTHER, YOU HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN YOUR UNFORTUNATE BOOKKEEPER...
...IS THAT YOU, ROBERTS? FOR HEAVENS SAKE, STOP RATTLING WHATEVER THAT IS YOU HAVE THERE...
TURN ABOUT AND SEE WHO IT IS, ELIAS HODGE...
RATTLE! CLANG!
NO, HODGE, THIS FRIGHTFUL, HOLLOW VOICE DOESN'T BELONG TO YOUR BUTLER ROBERTS...AND YET IT HAS A VAGUELY FAMILIAR RING... YOU TURN TO LOOK...
CHARLIE GLADE, ELIAS... DO YOU REMEMBER...?

...AND DESPITE HIS ANNOYING TRANSPARENCY YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR OLD PARTNER...
I'LL BE DARNED! IT'S CHARLIE'S GHOST...!
YES, ELIAS...AND THIS IS CHRISTMAS EVE...TEN YEARS AGO TONIGHT YOU TOLD ME I WAS NO LONGER YOUR PARTNER...YOU CHEATED ME OUT OF MY SHARE OF OUR BUSINESS...
SO WHAT! IT WAS LEGAL, WASN'T IT? I'VE STAYED WITHIN THIS LAW...
BUT YOU DID CHEAT ME...I DIED OF A BROKEN HEART...LEFT MY FAMILY POVERTY-STRICKEN! HAVE YOU NEVER FELT ONE PANG OF REMORSE?
REMORSE! HA! HA! HO! HO! THAT'S A JOKE...I'M RICH, CHARLIE! HA! HA! INVESTED YOUR MONEY WISELY...MADE MILLIONS! I OWN THE WHOLE BUILDING OUR OFFICE WAS IN...I'M DIRECTOR IN FIFTEEN COMPANIES... REMORSE? YOU'RE AS STUPID AS EVER!
I'VE COME HERE TO HAUNT YOU... AND YOU DARE TALK THAT WAY TO ME!
I SUPPOSE I MIGHT HAVE, ELIAS... BUT AT LEAST MY CONSCIENCE WOULD TROUBLE ME! YOU'RE A PHONY, CHARLIE SLADE ...I ALWAYS COULD SEE THROUGH YOU, EVEN WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE! ADMIT IT...YOU'D HAVE CHEATED ME IF YOU'D BEEN SMART ENOUGH!
CHARLIE'S GHOST HAS THAT SELFISH MANNER, THAT SAME WHINE IN ITS VOICE THAT YOU ALWAYS DESPISED WHEN THE MAN WAS ALIVE, HODGE, AND YOU MAKE IT PLAIN YOU WISH HE'D GO...
I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, ELIAS HODGE! YOU'LL BE VISITED BY THREE GHOSTS THIS NIGHT...
TELL 'EM NOT TO COME BEFORE THE FIGHTS ARE OVER...SEE YOU AGAIN, CHARLIE... IN ANOTHER TEN YEARS MAYBE...
YOU QUICKLY FORGET THE GHOST OF CHARLIE SLADE AND THE PROMISE HE MADE...BUT AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT A QUAVERING, HOLLOW VOICE BRINGS YOU UP FROM YOUR PILLOW WITH A START...
HUH? WHAT THE DICKENS DO YOU WANT AT THIS UNEARTHLY HOUR...!
I AM THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST... I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK...HERE, LET ME HOLD YOU BY THE HAND...
BACK WHERE? LISTEN, I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE DISTURBING MY SLEEP!
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU A HAPPIER DAY, ELIAS HODGE...A CHRISTMAS FORTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, WHEN YOU WERE ONLY EIGHT!
9

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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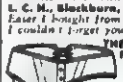

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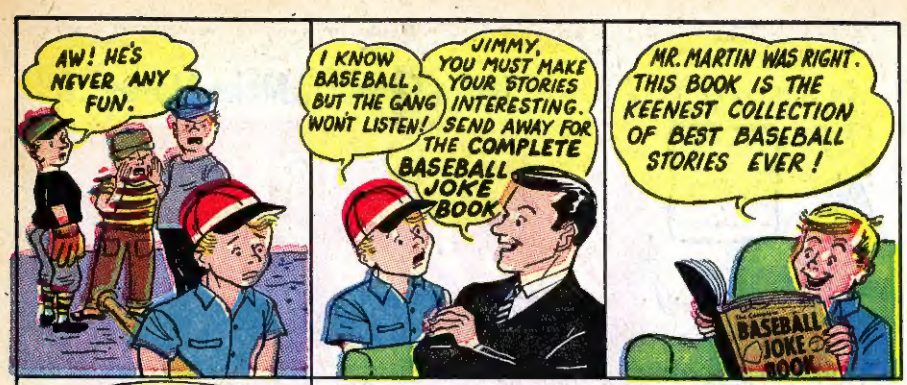
RUSH THIS COUPON NOW!

THEN YOU FLASH THROUGH THE AIR WITH BLINDING SPEED...THE AIR ABOUT YOU SCREAMS IN YOUR EARS... AND ALL AT ONCE YOU ARE THERE...
LOOK INSIDE, ELIAS HODGE.
WHY I'VE SEEN THAT PLACE BEFORE!
YOU RECOGNIZE THE HOUSE, ELIAS HODGE...THE HOUSE YOU WERE BORN IN...!
WHY, THERE I AM AS A BOY...IT'S LIKE LOOKING INTO A PHOTO ALBUM... AND THERE'S MY BROTHER ED...AND MY SISTERS, ALICE AND JANE...
YOU WERE A HAPPY FAMILY THEN...
AS YOU LOOK AT THE PAST YOU RECALL THAT CHRISTMAS NIGHT, AND WHAT YOU DID TO YOUR BROTHER ED.
MA! PA! ED SMASHED MY TRUCK WITH HIS HAMMER... HE BROKE MY TRUCK!
THAT WAS A MEAN, SPITEFUL THING TO DO!
JUST FOR THAT, ELIAS, YOU MAY TAKE ED'S TRAIN TO REPLACE THE TRUCK HE BROKE!
BY GOSH, I'D FORGOTTEN THAT INCIDENT! OH, THAT WAS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE HAPPY AGAIN, ELIAS HODGE? YOU CAN BE, YOU KNOW...
THEY NEVER DID FIND OUT HOW I TRICKED ED OUT OF THAT TRAIN! I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN WHAT I WANTED, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
SO THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST LEADS YOU AWAY, ELIAS HODGE, AND YOU'RE TOO PLEASED WITH YOURSELF TO NOTICE HOW CRESTFALLEN HE IS...
IT HAS ALWAYS MADE ME HAPPY TO CHEAT PEOPLE, TO MAKE MY FORTUNE OUT OF OTHER MEN'S BAD LUCK!
(TSK!) WELL, COME ON, YOU'D BETTER BE GETTING BACK HOME TO BED...

IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE HARDLY BEEN BACK TO SLEEP AT ALL WHEN YOU ARE AWAKENED ONCE AGAIN...
I AM THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT! COME, I HAVE MANY THINGS FOR YOU TO SEE..
NOW LOOK HERE...I'M GETTING FED UP WITH THIS BUSINESS..
WHOSE HORRIBLE, DEPRESSING PLACE IS THIS? THERE...YOU KNOW, ELIAS HODGE...IT'S THE POOR HOME OF NICHOLAS WILKINS, THE MAN FIRED ON CHRISTMAS EVE...
THAT ROTTEN HEEL... HE'S PROBABLY STUFFING HIMSELF ON TURKEY WHILE OUR KIDS EAT MUSH! AND POOR LITTLE TOMMY HERE IS SICK, BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD A DOCTOR...
NOW, EMILY, WE CAN'T BLAME MR. HODGE FOR THAT...I COULD HAVE SAVED A LITTLE SOMETHING EACH WEEK FROM MY SALARY
HUH! ALL I PAID HIM WAS FORTY DOLLARS A WEEK! A MAN COULDN'T SAVE A CENT, EVEN LIVING IN A DUMP LIKE THIS!
YOU COULD HAVE PAID HIM MORE, ELIAS HODGE ...THINK OF HIS FAMILY! YOU'VE MADE THIS CHRISTMAS A NIGHTMARE FOR THEM!
NUTS! WILKINS NEVER HAD THE NERVE TO ASK ME FOR A RAISE! WHY SHOULD I GIVE IT TO HIM? LET THEM GO TO CHARITY.. I'M A BUSINESS MAN, NOT A PHILANTHROPIST!
YOU HAVE THE COLDEST HEART OF ANY MAN I'VE EVER HAUNTED... I GIVE UP!
SO THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT, HAVING FAILED TO MAKE THE SLIGHTEST DENT IN YOUR CONSCIENCE, RETURNS YOU TO YOUR BED...AND YOUR HEAD BARELY HITS THE PILLOW WHEN ANOTHER VISITOR ARRIVES...
I AM THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE...PERHAPS WITH YOUR WEALTH YOU MAY BUY AWAY THE SADNESS THAT IS YET TO COME...
SOMEBODY'LL PAY FOR THIS! I'VE GOT INFLUENCE ...I'VE GOT MONEY... MILLIONS!
IN NO MORE THAN A MOMENT YOU ARE AT ANOTHER FAMILIAR PLACE...AND THE SIGHT OF IT SENDS A CHILL DOWN YOUR SPINE...
THIS IS MY OFFICE! B-BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO IT... AND WHO IS THAT BEHIND MY DESK?
THIS IS CHRISTMAS FIVE YEARS HENCE ...AND THAT OLD MAN IS YOU, ELIAS HODGE! BUT COME...THERE'S STILL MORE TO SEE...
THE GHOST WHISKS YOU AWAY AGAIN...TO A HOSPITAL, HODGE, A GLOOMY, TERRIFYING PLACE, SMELLING OF ETHER, DISINFECTANT...AND DEATH!
HE'S GONE, NURSE... BETTER OFF, POOR OLD MAN!
IS THAT THE FATE THAT AWAITS ME? THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP IT! I'M RICH...
WE HAVE ONE MORE STOP. THEN WE'LL DISCUSS THAT, ELIAS HODGE...
IN A TWINKLING YOU'RE THERE... POTTER'S FIELD, THE PAUPERS' CEMETERY...AND YOU SEE THE TINY GRAVE-MARKER, HODGE .. YOUR GRAVE...YOUR FUTURE!
THEN THAT'S HOW IT WILL BE...I'LL DIE IN POVERTY! HOW WILL I GET POOR? WHAT WILL CAUSE ME TO LOOSE ALL MY MONEY?
ELIAS HODGE
THAT I'LL TELL YOU ONLY IF YOU CHANGE YOUR WAYS, HODGE! BUT I CAN'T SAVE YOU FROM YOUR RUIN... IT'S INEVITABLE!
5

THE SIGHT OF YOURSELF DYING FRIENDLESS...YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE A PAUPER'S GRAVE, STRIKES YOU DEEP INSIDE, HODGE ... AND CHRISTMAS DAY FINDS YOU A CHANGED MAN...
I-I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, MR. HODGE!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, WILKINS...HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA FOR CHRISTMAS...ENOUGH TO GET THE BEST DOCTORS FOR LITTLE TOMMY! AND YOUR JOB WILL BE WAITING AFTER THE HOLIDAYS!
YOU SENSE THAT THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE IS WATCHING ...YOU WANT TO SHOW YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT NOW...YOU ARE DIFFERENT, HODGE...
...HELLO, TELEGRAPH OFFICE? I WANT TO SEND SOME BONUS CHECKS TO MY EMPLOYEES...YOU'D BETTER SEND SOME MESSENGERS... ABOUT A HUNDRED...MY ADDRESS? OH, YES...
THEN, AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE BUILDING...
YOU'VE BEEN SPLENDID, ELIAS HODGE...I WISH THAT I COULD SAVE YOU FROM RUIN...BUT IT IS NOT IN MY POWER! BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT IT WILL COME FROM BUSINESS FAILURE!
THAT IS RIDICULOUS! WHY, THE PRODUCTS I MANUFACTURE...
THE PRODUCTS YOU MANUFACTURE WILL BE MADE CHEAPER BY A GROUP OF MEN WHO WILL RUN YOU OUT OF BUSINESS! YOU'LL BE A PAUPER...I SHOWED YOU YOUR FUTURE..... WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE!
YOU'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT FAST, HODGE, AND YOU KNOW NOW WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SAVE YOURSELF...
I DON'T CARE IF THIS IS CHRISTMAS, PARKINSON ...I WANT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF MY HOLDINGS, MY BUILDING... EVERYTHING...SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!
SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PASSED, HODGE, AND YOU'VE NOT ONLY DISPOSED OF YOUR BUSINESS AND BUILDING, BUT YOU HAVE THE CASH FOR THEM...
YOU'VE DOUBLE-CROSSED ME...AND THE FUTURE, HODGE! YOU'VE THROWN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE OUT OF WORK! THEY'LL STARVE! LOOK AT THE POOR THINGS!
YES, BUT I'M ALL RIGHT, THANKS TO THE INFORMATION YOU GAVE ME! I HAVE THAT MONEY...FORTY MILLION IN CASH...IN A NEW VAULT I HAD BUILT BENEATH MY MANSION! NO, SIR, I'LL NEVER BE A PAUPER!
ELIAS HODGE
CLOSED
SUDDENLY THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE IS GONE, HODGE ..NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN... FOR TONIGHT HE AND HIS COMPANIONS HAVE REACHED A CONCLUSION.
SO YOU THOUGHT YOU FOUND A CONSCIENCE IN THAT SCOUNDREL, ELIAS HODGE.. BAH!
THAT GOES DOUBLE HERE, BROTHER...I'LL NEVER HAUNT ANYONE AGAIN!
I'M DISGUSTED WITH PEOPLE
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS


AW! HE'S NEVER ANY FUN.
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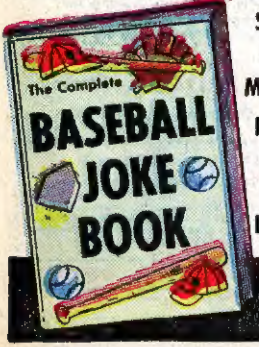

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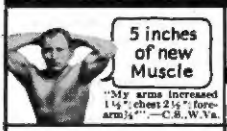
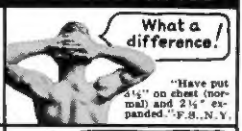
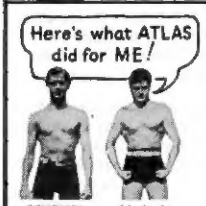


"My arms increased 1½"; chest 2½"; forearm ¾"." —C.S., W.Va.



"Have put 3½" on chest (normal) and 2½" expanded." F.S., N.Y.



"Am sending snapshot showing wonderful progress." —W. G., N. J.

"When I started, weighed only 141. Now 170." —T. K., N. Y.

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